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RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 3499
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RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5169
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 001589

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SUBJECT: ANDEAN COMMUNITY SUMMIT PREPARATIONS AND EU
NEGOTIATIONS

Classified By: Charge Krishna Urs for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

SUMMARY

¶1. (C) Preparations for the 17th Presidential Summit of the Andean Community (CAN), to be held in Tarija June 12-14, are going slowly as the CAN deals with internal divisions, especially in regard to negotiating a trade agreement with the EU. As of June 8, only President Correa of Ecuador and President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela (special invitee) have confirmed their attendance. Diplomatic sources say Colombian President Uribe will not attend. According to the Chilean Consul, Peruvian President Garcia's participation as well as that of Chilean President Bachelet are also very much in doubt. Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera has said that the topic of trade negotiations with the EU will be on the agenda. End summary.

¶2. (C) Preparations for the 17th Presidential Summit of the Andean Community (CAN), to be held in Tarija June 12-14, are going slowly as the CAN deals with internal divisions, especially in regard to negotiating a trade agreement with the EU. As of June 8, only President Correa of Ecuador and President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela (special invitee) have publicly confirmed their attendance. Chilean Consul Eliodoro Pempelfort Lara told Charge on June 7 that the Chilean Embassy in Bogota reports that Colombian President Uribe will not attend. The Colombian ambassador was unable to confirm Uribe's participation one way or the other. Pempelfort also does not expect President Garcia of Peru to attend. According to Pempelfort, Chile is waiting for the CAN to offer it associate membership. President Bachelet will not attend the summit unless the membership offer is extended beforehand.

¶3. (U) Trade agreement negotiations between CAN and the EU have been stalled by GOB objections. Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera has said that the topic of trade negotiations with the EU will be on the summit agenda. Peru and Colombia

have threatened to pursue direct negotiations with the EU if an agreement cannot be reached. On June 8, Spanish Ambassador to Bolivia Juan Francisco Montalban told the press that a trade agreement with the EU could result in increased aid for Bolivia.

COMMENT

¶4. (SBU) With only Morales, Correa, and Chavez confirmed so far, the CAN summit could look more like an ALBA gathering rather than an Andean Community meeting. End Comment.
URS